

# **Brunswick Economic Development Commission**

## **July Minutes**

**Present:** Jim Gangawere, Jim Castle, Wayne Allgaier, Buddy Rizer, Katherine Iacovelli, Carol Jones

**Guests:** Bob and Dawn Shinn, Ellis , Joe Harrington

The **minutes** of the June Meeting were approved as was.

**Business Activity:** Ellis spoke on his proposed funding for his office building. He is looking for the Commissions support of his application to DHCD. The vote was unanimous approval will be told to the City Council.

The empty space on Maple where Trinity moved is to be filled by Potomac Believers.

The Pacific Café is for sale. There is concern about all of the restaurants and Main Street wanting to bring in Casey Willson, the SBDC restaurant specialist to speak and consult.. Jim G and Katherine will follow up on that and Katherine will speak with Judy.

**Welcome Baskets:** The letter has been approved and will be sent out to the businesses as soon as corrections are made. The baskets need to be removed from the closet. Katherine will ask Bill Hopwood if he would have space. Dawn volunteered to help fill the baskets. If we order fewer and smaller baskets, managing space will be easier.

**Business Breakfasts:** We will skip the August breakfast due to lack of response in past years. Speakers on the list for future breakfasts include: WTRI; Casey Willson; People involved with CDE: Joe Pettiford, Dick Phoebus and Art Callahan; and people on Jim G's list.

**EDC Budget:** Passed the Council at the full \$5000 asked for and the other portion which goes to Main Street. We spent \$2000 last year.

**Movies in the Park:** Sponge Bob is the next movie. There was nothing in the paper. Wayne will make sure to alert the paper before each one. Buddy said that so many press releases come into WTRI that if one has a list a dates of events it often gets filed and forgotten so a release every time is more likely to get attention. \$525 in grant money was awarded by the State Arts Council. It will be used to pre-pay next year's movies. Also we are trying to get a credit due to the poor quality of the CD of The Incredibles.

**Main Street Report:** The Harry Potter activities are scheduled to include 2 movies and activities in several locations. August 15<sup>th</sup> is scheduled as Brunswick night at the Keys. Tickets will be sold as a fundraiser. Surveys are being created by the Economic Restructuring group. The auction netted over \$6000. The 501(c)3 is still being worked on. They are talking about an expansion the Main Street boundary within the next year.

They did get the façade grant of \$25,000 and have limited the draws to \$4000. They were told to use it up and apply for more.

**Member Recruitment:** Bob and Dawn are interested and will be attending meetings. Katherine will see if the other couple is still interested.

**Business Directory:** Jim C brought a copy of Middletown's which included more community information. We liked it and Ellis will give us a quote. Jim C has started to call the businesses. An ad will need to be run in the newspaper. There is a list of businesses in the City website that has not been updated in some time.

**County OED Report:** Business Appreciation Week is being worked on and a list of 10 businesses was turned into Vivian Grove. OED is working with Greater Washington Initiative to tour the county. Jim is still working on the expanded DHCD Seminar where more time will be spent on each segment including the Historic District and tax credits. Perhaps Chris Olsen will be asked to speak. The City paid for the last breakfast.

**New Projects:** The Community Legacy CD is still unavailable. State needs to approve it. The City will apply for a grant to start the suggested work. Implementation of the Economic Strategic Report needs to be restarted and include Main Street to see what they can do.

Joe Harrington is hearing that it is hard for new businesses to start. Discussed was having one agency to talk to potential businesses and show them the steps, who would answer the phone, do they have the right information? Main Street met with Rick Stup regarding the stories of the \$10,000 site plans. They met with Ed Gladstone too. Rick Stup should be invited to a breakfast as a speaker. Rick Weldon created a list, Jim C updated it, they are still looking for approvals to use it though.

SMART Codes need to be adopted by the County. The Mayor is looking into that.

The Sports Complex sign should be finished in the near future.

Ellis spoke on the naming of the streets in Brunswick crossing and the meetings that were held to develop the site.